

## Vertebrates

There are 636 vertebrate species that have been documented in Montana. Sixty of these were determined to be Tier I (greatest need of conservation), 143 Tier II (moderate conservation need), 281 Tier III (lower conservation need), and 152 Tier IV (non-native, peripheral).

## Fish

### White Sturgeon (Kootenai River Population) (*Acipenser transmontanus*)

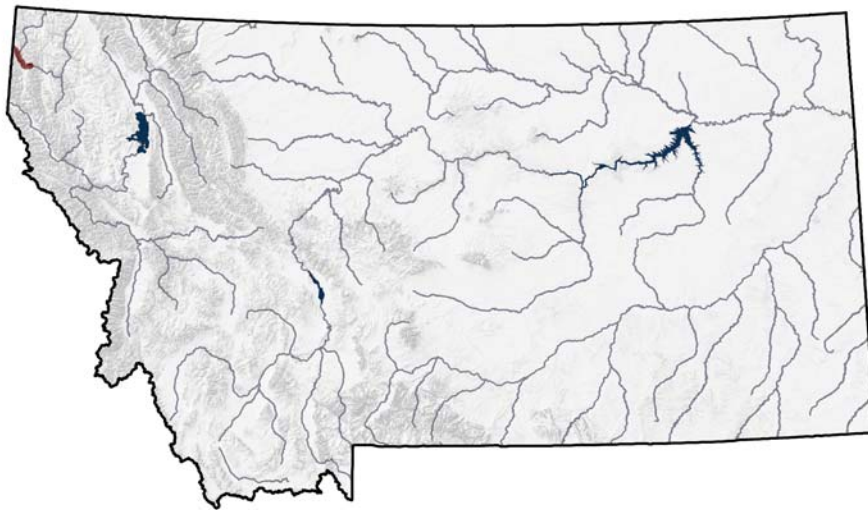


Figure 44. Distribution of the White Sturgeon

### Range

The white sturgeon's range extends from Kootenai Falls in Montana, located 50 river kilometers downstream of Libby Dam, to the Corra Linn Dam at the outlet from Kootenay Lake in British Columbia. A natural barrier at Bonnington Falls downstream of Kootenay Lake has isolated the white sturgeon in the Kootenai River from other populations in the Columbia River since the last ice age approximately 10,000 years ago (Alden 1953; Northcote 1973; Duke et al. 1999; USFWS 1999) (AFS website 2003).

### Habitat

The white sturgeon is landlocked in Montana and lives in the large, cool Kootenai River.